

April 13, 1999

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in a regular session at 6:08 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Horwich, Lee*, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker and Mayor Hardison.

*Arrived at 6:31 p.m.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows,
City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

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Agenda Item No. 12a was heard out of order at this time.

12a. APPEAL RE POLICE OFFICER JOHN BRUMBAUGH

Recommendation

The Civil Service Administrator recommends that City Council conduct a hearing on the appeal of the Civil Service Commission decision sustaining the discharge of John Brumbaugh.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date and place for the hearing on the appeal of John Brumbaugh of the Civil Service Commission decision to sustain his dismissal from the position of Police Officer in the Torrance Police Department. Noting that California Government Code Section 54957 allows for consideration of Public Employee discipline in a closed session, she advised that this hearing would be closed to the public and asked parties not involved in the hearing to exit Council Chambers. The matter was heard in a closed session with Linda Jensen, counsel for the City of Torrance, Deputy City Attorney Pohl, Agency Counsel Roy Clark, Civil Service Administrator Ghio, City Manager Jackson, and City Clerk Herbers also present. There was no representation for Mr. Brumbaugh present.

The Council recessed at 6:25 p.m. to an executive session to consider Item 12a and reconvened at 6:31 p.m.

Mayor Hardison announced that by a unanimous vote, the Council voted to uphold the decision of the Civil Service Commission sustaining Mr. Brumbaugh's dismissal from the position of Police Officer in the Police Department (absent Councilman Lee).

Following a brief recess, the Council reconvened at 7:06 p.m., and the meeting resumed in regular agenda order.

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2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Management Assistant Olivia Lopez.

Reverend Charles Bullock, Torrance Church of the Nazarene, gave the invocation for the meeting.

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Mayor Hardison requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Judy Wilson, an eight-year employee in the City of Torrance Building and Safety Department.

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3. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS

City Manager Jackson announced that Item 7e (Newly Created Class Specification for Business Manager) and Item 9a (City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1) were deferred to the City Council meeting of April 20, 1999.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ad Hoc Rose Float Committee

Wednesday, April 14, 1999, 5:30 p.m.

Third Floor Assembly Room

Subject: 2000 Rose Float Design

40th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade

Saturday, May 15, 1999, 2:00 p.m.

Crenshaw and Torrance Boulevards

Displays at Del Amo Fashion Center

May 14-16, 1999

Budget Workshops

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Wednesday, June 2, 1999

5:30 p.m., Council Chambers – City Hall

3031 Torrance Boulevard

Budget Hearings

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Tuesday, June 15, 1999

5:30 p.m., Council Chambers – City Hall

3031 Torrance Boulevard

Mayor Hardison offered a reminder that a Memorial Service for John Bramhall would be held on Saturday, April 18, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

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Mayor Hardison reminded the public that the California Public Utilities Commission overlay of 310/424 area code takes effect on April 17, 1999, at which time everyone must dial 1 + the area code + seven digit phone number for each call made within the area.

6a. RESOLUTION NO. 99-31 RE POLICE OFFICER JAMES BARR

RESOLUTION NO. 99-31

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE HONORING POLICE OFFICER JAMES BARR
AS THE RECIPIENT OF A MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD BY
DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF WITH A CONSPICUOUS ACT
OF BRAVERY**

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-31. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Mayor Hardison noted that the resolution would be presented at the Medal of Valor luncheon the following week.

6b. PROCLAMATION RE “NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICES DAY”

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring Friday, April 16, 1999, as “National Youth Services Day” in the City of Torrance to Paul Seo, Youth Council Chairperson. Mr. Seo invited Torrance youths to visit the new Teen Center located in the former YWCA building on Carson Street.

6c. PROCLAMATION RE "NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK"

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the week of April 11-17, 1999, as "National Library Week" in the City of Torrance to Debra von Sprecken on behalf of the Library Foundation. Ms. von Sprecken announced a fundraiser on Saturday, April 17, 1999, at Borders Books where 15% of sales, accompanied by a special coupon, will be donated to the Public Libraries and that coupons are available at several locations throughout the City.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

7a. PURCHASE ORDER RE T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, JACKETS, ETC.

Recommendation

The Finance Director and the Parks and Recreation Director recommend that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued for an annual anticipated amount not to exceed \$70,294.00 to Prolific Screen Printing Co., Hayward, CA, for the purchase of T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, etc.

7b. PURCHASE ORDER RE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Recommendation

The Fire Chief recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued to L.N. Curtis for the purchase of Protective Clothing (Turnout Coats and Turnout Pants). This purchase order not to exceed \$27,000.00.

7c. AUTHORIZATION RE PURCHASE OF UNIFORM SHIRTS

Recommendation

The Fire Chief recommends that City Council authorize the Fire Department to spend \$20,000.00 from funds received from El Camino College District for 326 Nomex uniform work shirts.

7d. PURCHASE ORDER RE FIRE DEPARTMENT REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

Recommendation

The General Services Director and the Fire Chief recommend that City Council:

- (1) Release Robert H. Loud from the award of Bid No. B99-08 and subsequent purchase order No. 1582; and
- (2) Authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$81,829.77 to Peyton Cramer Ford, Torrance, CA, for the purchase of three (3) Ford F-350 Super Duty Super Cab and Chassis.

7e. NEWLY CREATED CLASS SPECIFICATION FOR BUSINESS MANAGER

Recommendation

The Human Resources Director recommends that City Council approve the newly created class specification for Business Manager.

Deferred to the meeting of April 20, 1999 (see page 2).

7f. PURCHASE ORDER RE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT WORKSTATIONS

Recommendation

The Transit Director recommends that City Council authorize a purchase order be issued for an amount not to exceed \$57,952.43 (\$56,157.43 plus \$1,795.00 for after hours installation) to American Office Products, Marina Del Rey, CA, to furnish and install workstations and furniture in the Torrance Transit Department.

MOTION: Councilwoman O'Donnell moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Item Nos. 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, and 7f. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

9. TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS

9a. CITY OF TORRANCE LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 99-1

Recommendation

The Planning Director recommends that City Council:

- (1) Adopt a resolution initiating proceedings to form City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1 and to levy assessments within the District for Fiscal Year 1999/2000.
- (2) Adopt a resolution approving the Engineer's Report for the City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1; and
- (3) Adopt a resolution of intention to form City of Torrance Lighting District No. 99-1 and to levy assessments within the District for Fiscal Year 1999/2000.

Deferred to the meeting of April 20, 1999 (see page 2).

12. PERSONNEL MATTERS

12a. APPEAL RE POLICE OFFICER JOHN BRUMBAUGH

Considered out of order (see page 1).

Mayor Hardison announced that by a unanimous vote, the Council voted to uphold the decision of the Civil Service Commission sustaining Mr. Brumbaugh's dismissal from the position of Police Officer in the Police Department.

12b. CLASS SPECIFICATION RE TRANSIT DIRECTOR

Recommendation

The Human Resources Director and the Civil Service Commission recommend that City Council approve the proposed revised class specification for Transit Director. The Human Resources Director recommends the approval of an amendment to the Certain Management resolution modifying the salary range for Transit Director.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to approve the revised class specification for Transit Director. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 98-79 SETTING FORTH CHANGES REGARDING HOURS, WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS FOR CERTAIN MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the approval of Resolution No. 99-38. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13a. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Recommendation

The Strategic Plan Steering Committee recommends that City Council receive the proposed Strategic Plan Update and formally adopt the Plan at a subsequent meeting.

Facilitator R. Scott Adams introduced Strategic Plan Steering Committee members.

In a slide presentation, Dr. Frank Tyrrell described the process by which the Steering Committee arrived at their conclusions, including examining the progress of the Strategic Plan since its adoption in 1996, analyzing the City's strengths and weaknesses, and determining whether goals and priorities remain relevant based on data gathered from surveys conducted of residents, businesses and employees, an Environmental Scan, and focus groups. He noted changes that were made to the Vision Statement and the Mission Statement to make them more succinct and user friendly, and to the Values section to emphasize the strength of diversity in all aspects of the community.

Continuing the presentation, Mr. Steve Cummins advised that the Committee's analysis of the data confirmed that the current Strategic Priorities remain valid and appropriate to the needs and desires of the community. He outlined additions, deletions and language changes that were made to the Goals and Sub-goals of the Strategic Priorities to reflect the progress that has been made on the implementation of the Plan, and changes in emphasis that were expressed by the community.

Concluding the presentation, Mr. Tom Brewer advised that rather than a full-scale Plan renewal every three years, the Committee was recommending that an Environmental Scan and statistically valid phone surveys be conducted, with the results forwarded to the City Council for an evaluation as to whether or not there is a need for a complete revision process; and that if the data indicates no need for a complete revision

at the three-year interval, that the mandatory revision occur every five years. He reported that it was apparent from the data gathered that many residents were not aware that the City has a Strategic Plan and that to increase awareness of the Plan, the Committee had devised a new theme, "Torrance Strategic Plan 1999 The Bridge to Our Future."

Mr. R. Scott Adams thanked Mike Bihn, Elishia Krause, Laura Toner, Maria Cesca, Jim Isomoto, and Pam Tate for their team effort in preparing the Strategic Plan Update.

Assistant City Manager Giordano requested that Councilmembers submit their comments regarding the draft of the Plan within two weeks and advised that the final document would be brought back to the Council for formal approval following receipt of their responses.

13b. AD HOC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation

The City Council Ad Hoc Committee recommends that City Council concur with the following recommendations:

- (1) Direct staff to draft an ordinance allowing for a Special Election to be set for September 28, 1999 in order to put forward to the voters consideration of a Charter amendment moving the year 2000 City Council Election;
- (2) Establish that the Special Election set for September 28, 1999 be conducted by mail ballot;
- (3) Designate the new City Council election date for the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May; and
- (4) Specify that if the Special Election is not successful that the regularly scheduled municipal election set for March 7, 1000, be conducted as a consolidated election with the County of Los Angeles.

Mayor Hardison noted supplemental material available at the meeting, consisting of the City of Torrance Election History (Digest and Detail), and Estimated Costs for Mail Ballot versus Polling Place Election (September 1999), Consolidated Los Angeles County (March 2000) versus Regular Election (May or April 2000), and Consolidated Election (November 1999). She indicated that subsequent to the Committee's meeting, they became aware of another option and asked Deputy City Attorney Whitham to explain that option.

Ms. Whitham advised that staff had determined that it would be possible to put forward the Charter Amendment on the November 2, 1999 ballot in consolidation with Unified District Elections conducted by Los Angeles County, and that since this date is a designated election date, there would be no need for an ordinance establishing the City's procedure for a Special Election. She noted that this option was originally ruled out because it was believed that the Charter Amendment, if passed in November, would not become effective in time for the 2000 election, but that new information had confirmed that it would be feasible.

Mayor Hardison explained that the reason the Ad Hoc Committee met to bring forward a recommendation to the Council was because state legislation enacted in 1998

moved the statewide election and the presidential primary to the same date in March 2000 as the City of Torrance general municipal election, an election that has traditionally been held as a stand-alone election. She advised that the Committee's recommendation was based on the options presented at the Committee meeting, and asked that the Council, as a whole, discuss the matter as there was now another option available that would simplify the process.

Councilman Walker stated that he believed that it was in everyone's best interest to have as many people participate in the election process as possible, and that he was pleased when, by chance, the state and federal elections happened to fall on the same date as the City election because it would provide an opportunity for everyone to focus on elections at one time. Relating his personal experience as a candidate, he maintained that the interest in politics is heightened during major elections to a degree not found in stand-alone elections, and voiced his opinion that the only thing moving the election date would do is guarantee a smaller turnout and cost taxpayers a lot of money. He expressed support for holding the combined presidential primary, state and local election as scheduled in March 2000, placing the Charter Amendment on that ballot, and letting the voters decide the issue at that time without incurring the expense of an additional election.

Mayor Hardison commented that the City has had a fine tradition of having stand-alone local elections and that that has made campaigning affordable, allowing most anyone who wants to run for local office to do so. Conceding that voter turnout is greater for federal elections, she expressed concerns that by placing the Charter Amendment on the March 2000 ballot, the issue would be decided by people who don't usually vote in local elections, and stated that she favored allowing people who typically vote year after year in local elections to decide whether the tradition should be continued. She noted that she had no stake in the outcome because term limits preclude her from running for office again.

Councilwoman O'Donnell stated that, as a government teacher, she feels compelled to encourage people to vote in local elections because the quality of local government has a direct effect on residents' everyday lives. She expressed her opinion that a consolidated election in March 2000 would offer an opportunity for the City to take advantage of the interest generated by the presidential primary to increase participation in the election process and broaden the base of voters.

Councilman Lee, echoed by other Councilmembers, thanked City Clerk Herbers for providing the City of Torrance Election History.

Councilman Lee expressed support for placing the Charter Amendment on the November 1999 ballot, pointing out that whether the election is held in November or March, all voters will receive a sample ballot and have the same opportunity to vote if they choose to be part of the process. He stated that he did not like the fact that there would be a three to four week waiting period before results would be final if the City held a consolidated election in March 2000; that he personally liked the election night experience of counting votes in Council Chambers with interested citizens present; and that the additional expense for the November election, when viewed in the context of the City's entire budget, was not exorbitant.

Councilman Messerlian observed that conducting a local election during a presidential primary would substantially increase costs for local candidates because they would have to compete with the barrage of campaign literature generated by statewide and national elections, and stated that he did not want to preclude people from running for local offices because they do not have the financial means. He voiced his preference for a separate municipal election as it would allow the focus to be on the local election and local issues.

Responding to Councilwoman Cribb's inquiry, City Clerk Herbers provided clarification of the cost estimates for the November 1999 consolidated election.

Councilwoman Cribbs indicated that she favored letting the voters decide in November whether or not they want a stand-alone municipal election, and commented that Torrance is one of the few cities where candidates walk the precincts and interact with citizens on an informal basis and that she believes it is an invaluable way to take the pulse of the City.

Voicing support for placing the issue on the November ballot, Councilman Horwich stated that people who vote in local elections and Torrance Unified School District elections are usually people who are passionately interested in the City of Torrance and that those are the people he is most interested in reaching.

Ms. Hope Witkowsky, 18827 Gerkin Avenue, stated that she was in favor of letting voters decide in November and that she hoped that their decision would be to hold stand-alone elections.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to direct staff to submit to the voters a Charter Amendment naming the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, as a regular municipal election date, at a special election consolidated with the Unified District Elections conducted by Los Angeles County on November 2, 1999, and further that if the measure is not successful, that the regularly scheduled municipal election set for March 7, 2000 be conducted as a consolidated election with the County of Los Angeles. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by a 5-2 majority vote, with Councilwoman O'Donnell and Councilman Walker dissenting.

Noting that the November election and, if approved, the May election could cost as much as \$240,000, Councilman Walker explained that he voted against the motion because he preferred that the matter be decided by a larger electorate at the March 2000 election at a cost of \$70,000.

Referring to the information on mail balloting, Mayor Hardison stated that she was intrigued by the idea of voting by mail and believes that it is an issue that will have to be explored in the future.

13c. LOAN TO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Considered out of order and concurrently with Redevelopment Agency Agenda Item 4b (see page 11)

14. HEARINGS

14a. RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STORAGE FACILITY – 4200 W. 190TH STREET

Recommendation

The Planning Commission and the Planning Director recommend that City Council adopt a Negative Declaration and GPA98-0002, deny the appeal and approve as conditioned CUP98-0020 to allow the construction and operation of an outdoor recreational vehicle storage facility on property located within the Edison Company right-of-way in the M-2 zone at 4200 W. 190th Street.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Mayor Hardison invited comments from the public. There being no requests to speak, the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of a Negative Declaration. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-39

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A CONDITIONAL
USE PERMIT (CUP98-0020) AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION
9, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 1 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL
CODE TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
OF AN OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE STORAGE
FACILITY ON PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE M-2 ZONE
AT 4200 190TH STREET
CUP98-0020, (EAS98-0013): Z-WAY CORPORATION**

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-39. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-40

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A GENERAL PLAN
AMENDMENT (GPA98-0002) AS PROVIDED FOR IN
DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 34 OF THE TORRANCE
MUNICIPAL CODE TO CHANGE THE GENERAL PLAN LAND
USE DESIGNATION FROM “PUBLIC / QUASI-PUBLIC/
OPEN SPACE” TO “LIGHT INDUSTRIAL” ON PROPERTY
LOCATED IN THE M-2 ZONE AT 4200 190TH STREET
GPA98-0002, (EAS98-0013): Z-WAY CORPORATION**

MOTION: Councilman Messerlian moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 99-40. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

18. ADDENDUM MATTERS

None.

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At 9:00 p.m., the Council met as the Torrance Redevelopment Agency.

Agenda Item 13c was heard concurrently with Redevelopment Agency Agenda Item 4b at this time.

13c. LOAN TO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Recommendation

The Redevelopment Agency staff and the City Manager recommend that City Council approve a \$95,612 loan from the City's developer funds (Grant & Popovich, Western Brass, and Frank Scotto), and \$152,471 from the City's Economic Development Infrastructure Fund, and defer the capital project to construct a traffic signal at Telo and Lomita Boulevard and reallocate \$110,000 to this project to the Redevelopment Agency to fund public improvements associated with the Eagle Hardware Development.

Planning Manager Bihn presented the staff report (per written material of record).

MOTION: Councilman Lee moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

19. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

19a. City Clerk Herbers announced that copies of the entire Torrance Election History from 1921, referred to during discussions in Item 13b, would be available shortly for the public.

19b. Responding to a suggestion by Councilman Lee, City Manager Jackson agreed to explore the possibility of using the Bridge as the City logo.

19c. Councilwoman O'Donnell announced a Concert for Children at the Armstrong Theater on Sunday, April 25, 1999, at 3:00 p.m.

19d. Councilwoman O'Donnell also announced Torrance Sister City Association Bunka Sai on April 17 and 18, 1999; and a Friends of the Library Book Sale on Saturday, April 17, 1999.

19e. Councilman Walker commented on his respect for safety personnel after viewing the recent Atlanta crane rescue on television.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:15 p.m., pursuant to Government Code Section Nos. 54957.6 and 54956.8, the Council recessed into a closed session to discuss matters listed on the meeting agenda.

At 10:08 p.m., the Council returned to Council Chambers; no formal action was taken on any matter heard in closed session.

21. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:08 p.m., the Council adjourned to Tuesday, April 20, 1999, at 7:00 p.m.

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*Adjourned in Memory of
Judy Wilson*

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Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Torrance